

(a) the details of areas identified by his Ministry for promotion of trade and commerce with South East Asian Countries through North Eastern Region in terms of Prime Minister package announced in October, 1996;

(b) the proposed area of N.E.R. which will be connected through Trans Asia Railway network; and

(c) the other infrastructural facilities proposed to be created during the Ninth Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Ministry of Commerce has identified agro products including spices, horticultural and floricultural produce as the thrust commodities for promotion of trade and commerce with South East Asian Countries through North-Eastern region. In this regard, detailed studies have also been commissioned through concerned trade promotion organisations including Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, etc. In order to boost border trade from North-Eastern States, traditional trade routes with Myanmar have been activated.

(b) India has urged ESCAP to connect North-Eastern Region under the proposed Trans Asia Railway link between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

(c) Ministry of Commerce provides assistance, under its Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme, to the State Governments for strategic debottlenecking and creation of export related infrastructure on receipt of specific proposals from the State Governments. Export Promotion Industrial Parks have also been sanctioned in two States. It is also proposed to create shortly cold storage facility in Guwahati airport.

[Translation]

Lok Adalats

5502. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Lok Adalats organised in Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years till date;

(b) the number of cases disposed of therein;

(c) whether the Government propose to organise some more Lok Adalats in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House when received from the Uttar Pradesh Legal Aid & Advice Board, Lucknow.

(c) to (e) Lok Adalats which were heretofore voluntary efforts for resolution of disputes through persuasive and

conciliatory methods have been accorded statutory base with the enforcement of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 with effect from 9th November, 1995. The District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees etc. as envisaged under the Act are yet to be constituted though the provisions of Chapter III of the said Act have been extended to the State of Uttar Pradesh w.e.f. 5.7.1996. Pending constitution of the Authorities etc. as envisaged under the said Act, Lok Adalats in the State of Uttar Pradesh are being organised on the pattern as was in vogue prior to the enforcement of the Legal Services Authorities Act.

[English]

Joint Venture of Ford Motor Company

5503. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ford Motor Company has submitted a proposal to the Government for the setting up of a new joint ventures company to be called Automotive Components India (P) Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof including equity participation of the ventrue; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. M/s. Ford Motor Company, USA submitted a proposal for setting up a joint venture company to be called Automotive Components India Pvt. Ltd. for manufacture of auto components in Tamil Nadu with a paid up capital of Rs. 16200 lakhs. M/s. Ford Motor Company of USA would have an equity participation of 80% in the Joint Venture. The proposal has since been approved.

Handloom Industries

5504. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any remedial measures to protect the handloom industry in view of the increase in freight charges announced recently as the industry is already facing financial constraints due to decline in export;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) With a view to protect the handloom industry from the impact of freight charges, the Government has been implementing Mill Gate Price Scheme. Under the Scheme, State Handloom Development Corporations, State Apex/Regional Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies, Handloom Development Centres, Primary Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies, Registered Societies (NGOs),